

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 08838 071105Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MANILA 8838

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CINCPAC AND CINCPACREPPHIL

FOR HOLBROOKE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MILI, SHUM, RP, MASS, MPOL

REF: A. MANILA 8493; B. MANILA 7863; C. STATE 124527

1. I MET, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WENZEL, FOR TWO HOURS THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, UNDER-SECRETARY INGLES, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT MABILANGAN AND ACTING SECRETARY OF JUSTICE MACARAIG. WE COVERED GUARD DOG INCIDENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF MILITARY BASE PERIMETER SECURITY, THE VERPLAETSE, KIRWAN AND KING OFFICIAL DUTY CASES, PROPOSED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON IMPROVING BASE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ROMULO'S VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE 1976 U.S. ELECTIONS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CHARGED BUT AFFABLE, WITH ROMULO PRINCIPLED AND POSITIVE, EVIDENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS (WRITTEN) FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS TO SEEK TO COOL CURRENT RASH OF EMOTIONAL GUARD DOG INCIDENTS. INGLES WAS TESTY, VERGING ON INSULT, AND MACARAIG WAS PHILOSOPHICAL AND PROBING. I RESPONDED IN KIND, SWEET AND SOUR, TOUGH AND MILD.

2. I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT WHILE AGREEING

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COMPLETELY WITH ROMULO ON THE NEED TO TAKE POPULAR EMOTIONS, PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES INTO ACCOUNT IN DEFUSING ISSUES SURROUNDING THE MILITARY BASES, I CONCEDED NOTHING CONCERNING OUR BASE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS,

THE NEED FOR GUARD DOGS, AND THE SGT. GAINES CASE IN PARTICULAR, OR CONCERNING OFFICIAL DUTY CERTIFICATES IN GENERAL OVER THE

VERPLAETSE, KIRWAN AND KING CASES IN PARTICULAR. ON THAT LATTER ISSUE I TWICE ROLLED THE EXPLOSIVE FACT THAT KIRWAN HAD LEFT THE PHILIPPINES AROUND THE TABLE, BUT NO ONE REACTED AND I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE THAT IT REALLY REGISTERED.

3. THINGS GOT WARM AT TIMES BUT REMAINED AFFABLE AND ENDED UPBEAT IN THE PECULIARLY EMOTIONAL FILIPINO FASHION. CHARACTERISTICALLY, MOST SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO DEFUSE GUARD DOG INCIDENTS CAME FROM US, I.E., KEEP THEM OUT OF THE PRESS, UTILIZE ESTABLISHED MDB PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION (CJIC), ACCELERATE POLICY LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF MDB DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL DECREE PROHIBITING TRESPASSING ON U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. PHILIPPINE SIDE ACCEPTED PRESS RESTRAINT AND STRESSED ELIMINATION OF GUARD DOGS AND NEED FOR BETTER INDOCTRINATION OF U.S. MILITARY AND MORE COMPASSIONATE AMERICAN APPROACH IN GENERAL.

4. GUARD DOG AND OFFICIAL DUTY CASE TOPICS ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY. HEREIN I MENTION ONLY SOME IMPRESSIONS AND ROMULO'S SUGGESTION THAT WE INFORMALLY DISCUSS OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BASES. THE LATTER SUGGESTION CAME LATE IN THE DISCUSSION AND ENTIRELY AT ROMULO'S INITIATIVE, AGAIN I AM CERTAIN AT THE PRIOR INSTRUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT. ACCORDING TO ROMULO HE WISHED TO PROPOSE A SERIES OF CONFIDENTIAL, INFORMAL DISCUSSION, "TO GET OUR POINT OF VIEW ACROSS, NOT COMMIT OUR GOVERNMENTS OR HOLD ANYBODY TO DECISIONS, WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BASES, WITHOUT HOWEVER GOING INTO
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NEGOTIATIONS, CALMLY AND WITHOUT NOTES." HE SUGGEST SUCH TOPICS AS CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, SECURITY, UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHTS, ETC., AND ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE "BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO EXCHANGE IMPRESSION OBJECTIVELY AND RESOLVE SPECIFIC ISSUES". THE AIM WOULD BE TO DEFUSE EMOTIONS AND PRECLUDE THE BUILD-UP OF ATTITUDES AND PRESSURES THAT THREATEN TO GET OUT OF CONTROL. THAT, ROMULO SAID, "IS THE DESIRE OF THE PRESIDENT." I SAID THAT WE WOULD REPORT ROMULO'S SUGGESTION TO THE DEPARTMENT, BUT HE WOULD OF COURSE UNDERSTAND THAT MY RESPONSE WOULD NECESSARILY BE DEPENDENT UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

5. COMMENT: MY VIEWS ON THE UTILITY OF DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS THOSE PROPOSED BY ROMULO DURING THIS PERIOD PENDING ANY RESUMPTION OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN AS STATED IN REF B. I AM OF COURSE ACUTELY AWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION SUMMARIZED IN REF C AND THEREFORE GAVE ROMULO NO RPT NO ENCOURAGEMENT WHATSOEVER AS TO THE RESPONSE

TO BE EXPECTED FROM WASHINGTON. I DID NOT, HOWEVER,
BELIEVE THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO REJECT ROMULO'S, I.E.,
PRESIDENT MARCOS', PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND, PARTICULARLY
SINCE ROMULO EVIDENTLY CONSIDERED IT A HANDSOME OFFER
MOTIVATED BY THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR IN
DEALING WITH INCREASINGLY PRESSING ISSUES IN PHILIPPINE-
AMERICAN RELATIONS.
STULL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC AND CINCPACREPPHIL.

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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